

Voices of the Sector 2019

The Future of Tertiary Education

Statement from participants.

1. Tertiary education has a diverse range of roles. It ensures the full development of human potential, social mobility, the reduction of inequality, a pathway to meaningful employment, and the betterment of society. It should shape citizens who actively contribute - from the global to the local level - and can meet the future challenges of society.
2. Staff, students, institutional leaders, iwi, community, industry, and Government must cooperate and engage in ongoing conversations to decide how best to fulfil the above roles of tertiary education.
3. This forum recommends that those listed above be part of the current and future discussion on a funding framework that moves beyond volume-based funding. These discussions should also identify clear roles for each part of the sector, ensuring success for the diverse range of learners and learning styles.
4. There must be funding for academic support, pastoral care, and mentoring for all students, whether work-based or provider-based.
5. We recognise the need for strong quality assurance and accountability in the management of public funds. However, a revised model must consider a broader range of outcomes, promote excellence and be designed by the sector with input from those who benefit from tertiary education.
6. The participants of this forum support a tertiary education sector that has a strong student voice and will provide an environment in which student associations flourish.
7. The sector must hear, understand, and respond to Māori voices and understand that a close relationship is essential to an ongoing dialogue between the parties.
8. That there be an extension in law and practice of academic freedom and the critic and conscience of function to all parts of the tertiary education sector. Consistent with the Education Act 1989, tertiary education institutions require autonomy from the political, social, and economic elite of the nation.
9. We applaud the Minister's recognition of life-long learning as a public good and his strong commitment to ensuring every New Zealander has equal access to high quality, tertiary education. However, participants urge greater focus on a sector that provides equitable outcomes.
10. Structural change is needed along with a change of mindset to enhance relationships with Māori – tauira, kaimahi and iwi. The sector must value te reo Māori, Kaupapa Māori, Mātauranga Māori, rangahau Māori and what they individually and collectively contribute to Aotearoa New Zealand and international indigenous knowledge and scholarship.